

# Up and Down



By Lisa Nicholson McKeel

## the Wage Staircase

What are the highest and lowest paying jobs in Utah? Whether you're looking for a job, choosing a career or hiring someone, it's helpful to know the competitive pay for a given occupation. Luckily, a wealth of data is available to answer these questions.

Interestingly, seven out of the ten top paying occupations in Utah are in the rapidly growing health care industry. These include physicians, psychiatrists, dentists and surgeons. Rounding out the top ten are lawyers, air traffic controllers and engineering managers. Paying an average of \$54.10 hourly, these jobs all require extensive training.

### Ten Highest-Paying Occupations in Utah\*

Obstetricians & Gynecologists	\$66.60
Surgeons	\$64.00
Internists, General	\$63.20
Pediatricians, General	\$59.70
Family & General Practitioners	\$56.60
Psychiatrists	\$54.40
Lawyers	\$49.20
Dentists	\$48.20
Air Traffic Controllers	\$42.30
Engineering Managers	\$37.30

### Ten Lowest-Paying Occupations in Utah\*

Ushers, Lobby Attendants, Ticket Takers	\$6.50
Fast Food Cooks	\$6.70
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	\$6.90
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	\$6.90
Dishwashers	\$7.00
Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	\$7.00
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concessions, and Coffee Shops	\$7.00
Amusement & Recreation Attendants	\$7.00
Parking Lot Attendants	\$7.10
Sewers, Hand	\$7.20

\* Data is from the Annual Occupational Employment Survey. The most current data was collected between fourth quarter 2001 and first quarter 2002.

At the other end of the spectrum, the ten lowest-paying Utah jobs are concentrated in the service occupations, and include ushers, fast-food workers, dishwashers and parking attendants earning an average of \$6.90 hourly. These jobs require less skill, and their lower pay reflects that.

So how does this compare to the rest of the U.S.? Although national wages are typically higher, the ranking of highest and lowest paying occupations follows a similar pattern. For example, nine out of the top ten occupations are in health care. To obtain wage information for over 400 occupations in Utah, please visit our website at [www.jobs.utah.gov/wi](http://www.jobs.utah.gov/wi)